

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested. Currently, claims 1-6, 15-16 and 21-26 are pending in this application.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly being anticipated by Nagasawa (U.S. '281). Since claim 20 has been canceled, this rejection is deemed moot.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being unpatentable over Nagasawa (U.S. '281) in view of Chen et al (U.S. '404, hereinafter "Chen"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

In order to establish a prima facie case of obviousness, all of the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. The combination of Nagasawa and Chen fails to teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. For example, the combination fails to teach or suggest interrupting a game process when a setting of a first register indicates a first predetermined value, the first predetermined value being set in the first register due to two distinct possible actions. One possible action is an operation of an interruption key. Another possible action is detection of an incoming phone call.

According to the present invention, a game related process is executed by a game CPU, and a phone related process is executed by a phone CPU. When an

interruption key is operated, a first predetermined value is set in a first register.

The first predetermined value may also be set in the first register when an incoming phone call is detected. An interruption process interrupts the game process when a setting of the first register indicates the first predetermined value.

Accordingly, the first predetermined value is set in the first register in response to an incoming call as well as an operation of the interruption key. The setting of the predetermined value in the first register in response to the incoming phone call may be accomplished without any operation of the interruption key. (See, e.g., page 2, lines 7-12 of the substitute specification).¹ The game process is interrupted by the first predetermined value being set in the first register.

Therefore, even if a conventional game program (a program which interrupts the game process when the first predetermined value is set to the first register) (as is) is used, the game process can be interrupted in response to an incoming call. That is, it is possible to suspend the game process at a time of an incoming call without modifying a game pause function originally provided in the conventional game program. (See, e.g., page 3, lines 7-14 and page 44, line 24 to page 45, line 5 of the substitute specification).

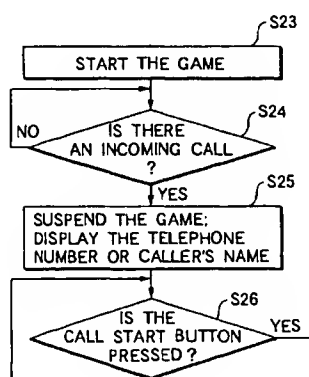
In contrast, Nagasawa discloses suspending a game process in response to detecting an incoming call, and resuming the game process in response to an operation of a game start button after completing a phone conversation. Nagasawa

¹ Applicant submits that no new matter was entered by the substitute specification.

fails to teach or suggest a first predetermined value being set in the first register in response to an incoming call as well as an operation of the interruption key. For example, the Office Action apparently alleges that the operation of call start button 5a teaches or suggests initiating interruption of the game operation. (See page 2, last line and page 3, last line of the Office Action). Applicant respectfully disagrees with this allegation. Col. 6, lines 13-20 (specifically identified in the Office Action) of Nagasawa states the following:

“When there is an incoming call (step 24), the controller 22 issues a suspend instruction to the controller for a pocket game 28 and displays caller information, i.e., the telephone number of the caller or caller's name on the first display 4 which displayed the game in progress until then. The user checks the caller information. When the user presses the call start button 5a (step 26), the user starts conversation using the earphone microphone 36.”

Accordingly, the user's pressing of call start button 5a in step S26 does not result in the suspension of game operation. The game operation is suspended only as a result of detecting an incoming call. This can be shown graphically in the following excerpt of Fig. 9 of Nagasawa.



As can be seen from the above portion of Fig. 9, the step of “SUSPEND THE GAME” in step S25 occurs before a determination of whether call start button 5a in step S26 is performed.

Nagasawa also fails to appreciate the benefit of a game process being interrupted in response to an incoming call even if a conventional game program (as is) is used. Chen also fails to appreciate this benefit of the present invention.

Accordingly, Chen fails to remedy the above described deficiencies of Nagasawa. While Chen discloses storing statistic data inputted by operating number entry keys into a register via an input/output buffer, Chen fails to teach or suggest setting a predetermined value in a first register to initiate interruption of game operation in response to operation of an interruption key as well as to an incoming call (which may not require any operation of the interruption key). Accordingly, even if Nagasawa and Chen were combined as proposed by the Office Action, the combination would not have taught or suggested all of the claim limitations.

Application thus requests that the rejection of still pending claims 1-6 and 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103 be withdrawn.

New Claims:

New claims 21-26 have been added to provide additional protection for the invention. New claim 21 requires, *inter alia*, “a pausing mechanism which pauses play of a videogame by the electronic apparatus as a result of operation of the

OKADA et al.
Application No. 09/994,914
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user-operable key and which also pauses the play of the videogame as a result of the detector detecting receipt of an incoming telephone call.” Independent claim 24 requires, *inter alia*, “a setting mechanism for setting a predetermined value in a register upon operation of the user-operable key as well as setting the predetermined value in the register upon the detector detecting receipt of an incoming telephone call.” Applicant submits that claims 21-26 are allowable.

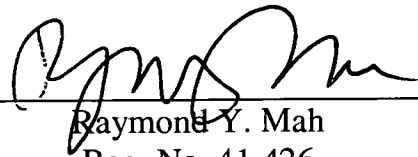
Conclusion:

Applicant believes that this entire application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests a notice to this effect. If the Examiner has any questions or believes that an interview would further prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: _____



Raymond Y. Mah
Reg. No. 41,426

RYM:sl
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4044
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100